

and the entire city and state of Texas, Iron Bill was not alone. Deservingly, Captain Dowling became everyone's hero.

Finally, six months after the fire, Captain Dowling left the hospital and went home, riding in Station 68's newly dedicated fire truck. Of course, he sat in the Captain's Chair. Along the drive home, he was greeted by firefighters and members of the community, who lined the streets and highways from the Texas Medical Center to Tomball.

Since returning home, Jacki left her full time job at Frank Elementary to care for her husband full time. It's no surprise that as a Texas woman, she's strong and determined, but quite simply, the strength that she possesses is amazing. To keep the community updated on Iron Bill, she started blogging on a community Facebook page (entitled "Capt. William Dowling Iron Bill"). This blog allows the community to rally behind the Dowling family: cry with them, laugh with them, pray for them and see their hero survive.

In the last year, Captain Dowling has received a customized fire tank chair. It's an ATV-like wheelchair, and he loves driving it! At home, Houston Texans' JJ Watt visited Iron Bill and presented him with a Houston Texans' jersey with the #68 proudly displayed. Captain Dowling loves to sing and play guitar—from Bon Jovi to Third Day—and Texas Country music star, Cory Morrow, played for him when he was in the hospital. He was even able to travel to San Diego to see his son Private Forrest Dowling follow in his footsteps and graduate from the Marine Corps' Recruit Training. When Private Forrest Dowling held his newly earned Eagle, Globe and Anchor in the palm of his hand with pride after completing the Crucible, April 17, 2013, Forrest said that the main reason he decided to sign the dotted line and become a Marine, was because of his dad. He said my dad was a Marine and always wanted me to become a Marine as well, so it's what I set out to do. Despite his amazing progress, Captain Dowling has had his share of challenges. His pain is debilitating—so much so that Jacki cried out for help and prayers that he could be seen by a team of experts who had experience with traumatic amputations. She had heard of the work of the team at Brooke's Army Medical Center, which operates the only DOD Burn Center, at Fort Sam Houston and set out to work to get him admitted. The community rallied, launching a change.org petition, emailing and calling BAMC and reaching out to my office. It's rarely talked about, but most Congressional offices spend the majority of their time on "case-work," offering constituents help with a federal department or agency.

Within a matter of hours, Brooke's Army Medical Center deemed Captain Dowling admissible, saying they are honored to receive him and that he would be embraced by fellow Marines. Once the appropriate medical records were transferred, an ambulance transported Iron Bill from St. Luke's Hospital to Brooke's Army Medical Center for further treatment.

As Iron Bill gets the medical care that he needs, I hope he knows the community of Tomball and the greater Houston area and, of course, Texas' Second District eagerly awaits his return home. When that happens, I hope we line the streets and cheer for him once

again. For our community will always be grateful for his service and sacrifices. Once a hero, always a hero.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BELOVED GEORGE H. WHITEHURST

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and dedicated service of Northwest Florida's beloved George H. Whitehurst who passed away on October 19, 2014. Throughout his long and distinguished career as a mayor and businessman, Mr. Whitehurst served as a mentor and an inspiration to countless individuals. All those who have been blessed by his presence and leadership mourn the loss of a great man and esteemed public servant.

Mayor Whitehurst was born in Greenwood, Florida on July 28, 1926 to George and Ethel Whitehurst. Upon graduating from Greenwood High School, he enrolled in Florida State University where he was a part of the Flying High Circus and performed on the flying trapeze. From 1943 to 1945, Mayor Whitehurst honorably served our Nation in the United States Navy as a hospital corpsman, as well as an operating room technician. Following his military service, he continued his education and graduated from the Indiana College of Mortuary Science in 1950. In 1955, Mayor Whitehurst settled in Crestview, Florida, where he and his wife, Annelle, opened the Whitehurst Funeral Home. In 1961, he entered the public service arena where he would use his great business sense to lead the Crestview community as mayor for more than two decades.

As Crestview's longest serving mayor, Mayor Whitehurst tirelessly worked to better the city he loved. He successfully advocated for increased public safety and economic development, which resulted in the establishment of two police substations and the Crestview Public Safety Building, development of an emergency transportation corridor, restoration of a cemetery, construction of the Okaloosa County Veterans Memorial, conversion of the former Yellow River Railroad bed into Industrial Drive, and a revitalized downtown, among other efforts.

Mayor Whitehurst was a man of conviction and was widely respected by those who knew him. The community's immense appreciation was well evidenced when he received the Mae Reatha Coleman Citizen of the Year Award in August 2013 for his outstanding service. Mayor Whitehurst, fondly known as "Mr. Crestview," will be remembered for his exceptional leadership and contributions to the Gulf Coast community, and his legacy will not be forgotten. To his family and friends, he will be remembered most as a loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the life of George H. Whitehurst. My wife Vicki joins me

in extending our sincerest condolences and prayers to his wife, Annelle; daughters, Angela and Ann; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and the entire Whitehurst family. He will truly be missed.

RECOGNIZING NETKAL AND KOREAN AMERICAN SERVICE DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to applaud the efforts of a group of Korean-American leaders in the United States as they successfully launched the first Korean-American Service Day, ("KA Service Day") on Saturday, November 8, 2014, with hundreds of volunteers participating in various events held in New York, Atlanta, Washington DC, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

KA Service Day was conceived by the Network of Korean-American Leaders (NetKAL), a leadership program organized by the Center for Asian-Pacific Leadership at the University of Southern California for the purpose of incubating the next generation of Korean-American leaders. In 2014, the eighth class of leadership fellows convened in New York City over the course of six months and, as in years past, was challenged to come up with a community service project with far-reaching impact. The creation of "Korean-American Service Day" was an idea put forth by the 2014 class of NetKAL fellows.

The five-city service day aimed to encourage Korean-Americans across the nation to give back to their local communities. Some of the volunteer opportunities ranged from food pantries and meal programs to outdoor restoration projects. They partnered with non-profit organizations, such as City Harvest to distribute fresh produce in the South Bronx neighborhood of my congressional district in New York City. From sorting donations to the Downtown Women's Center in Los Angeles and planting trees in a community greenspace in Atlanta, volunteers on KA Service Day demonstrated their collective will and power to become positive agents of change in our society. I hope that the huge success of the inaugural KA Service Day will inspire thousands of dedicated volunteers to help grow it into one of the largest days of service in America.

As a Korean War veteran, I have been proud to witness the Korean community flourish across our nation. Since 1903, when they first came to America, Korean immigrants have played a vital role in shaping our society through their strong family ties and hard work. They have inspired us with their entrepreneurialism and perseverance toward building success and wealth for their families and communities. As a Congressman representing the communities in the New York metropolitan area I have been greatly impressed by the tremendous contributions made by half-a-million Korean Americans and 1,000 professional, educational, religious, and trade organizations, as they play a vital role in the Great City of New York. I am grateful to them and the members of NetKAL for their leadership in making a positive impact on our society.